



COMMUTER LINES

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2ND QUARTER 2004

Atchafalaya Welcome Center Grand Opening

State officials and legislators attended the grand opening of the state's new tourist information center, the Atchafalaya Welcome Center, on Friday, June 18. Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco spoke at the ceremony for the new welcome center which is located in St. Martin Parish at the Butte La Rose exit.

The state departments of Transportation and Development (DOTD), Natural Resources (DNR), and Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT), hosted the grand opening which was marked with a ribbon cutting, a festival of foods, music, and tours of the new facility. The center is located off I-10, exit 121, between Baton Rouge and Lafayette. It will be operated seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is expected to attract over 1,000 visitors a day.

The architectural design for the Atchafalaya Welcome Center was a joint effort between architects John J. "Ike" Capdevielle and Stephen C. Losavio. The 5,856 square foot center resembles a southern Louisiana home and also serves as a cultural history museum. This welcome center will not only allow travelers an opportunity to stretch their legs and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee, but also learn more about the geographic region, the Atchafalaya Basin Swamp, South Louisiana



Taking part in the ribbon cutting are, left to right: Juba Diez; Darienne Wilson; Tony Sussmann; Scott Angelle; Governor Blanco; Senator Romero; Rep. Durand; Sandra Thompson; Camille Quebodaux, Jr. Miss St. Martin 2004; and Bill Fontenot.

culture, and tourist attractions all across the state. The building construction was completed by Arrighi Simoneaux of Baton Rouge.

The museum-quality exhibits, animatronics and video theatre presentation are the work of a New Orleans based company, WELLDONE. There are three main exhibit areas that symbolize the water levels in the Atchafalaya Basin throughout the year; high-water, low water, and mid-level water season. The animatronics feature a talking Cajun turtle, raccoon, alligator, and bird. The video presentation

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BITS AND PIECES

JOHNNY B. BRADBERRY, SECRETARY


"The tragedy is not that things are broken. The tragedy is that they are not mended again."
-Alan Patton, Writer

While this may mean different things to different people, I believe it's applicable to us as we begin a new era at DOTD. Things "break" in every organization. Equipment breaks, communications fail, systems or procedures don't generate desired results, products fall short, etc. With a piece of equipment (like a mowing machine, a ferry or a car), it's fairly obvious when it breaks and we usually know how to fix it. When processes, policies or communications fail, however, they're harder to fix since it's not always clear what went wrong or what we need to do to make sure it doesn't happen again. We may not even accept that there's a problem since we may be quite comfortable with "the way we've always done it."

As I often say, "If you keep doing what you've always done, you'll keep getting what you've always gotten." In our case, what we have gotten is a poor reputation with the public. Right or wrong, this is their perception, which in turn becomes their reality. It really doesn't seem fair, but if we want to improve our image, we have to change—change how we conduct our business and seize every opportunity to demonstrate to the taxpayers whose dollars we're spending that we are committed to providing high quality public service. Some of you may think you play no part in creating our image. But everyone has a role and opportunities to improve our image may be found in everything we do—how we answer the telephone, how we conduct ourselves in the public eye, how we keep the public informed about road projects, how timely/reliable our ferries are, how responsive we are to a request for a permit or a traffic signal or a complaint about a pothole, how we maintain our buildings and offices, how sensitive we are to peak traffic periods in scheduling road projects, how we interact with consultants and contractors, how we negotiate right-of-way purchases, how we follow through on assignments, etc. The list is endless. Simply put, everything you do and how you do it influences the public's opinion of this agency.

In my short time here, I have been very impressed with the caliber of DOTD employees and your dedication to public service. Our reputation however does not appropriately reflect your hard work and dedication. I want to change that. I want the public to respect and appreciate the work you do. I want you to be able to proudly state that you work for DOTD. I want DOTD to be known as an agency committed to public service. This is my vision, and I want it to be your vision. I am committed to customer service, professionalism, responsiveness, integrity, leadership, team-building, safety, communication, accountability, continuous improvement and quality work—not only for the value each adds to our organization, but also because each is essential to improving our public image.

We can't ignore the negative perception; it won't go away. The tragedy would indeed be if we did nothing to "mend" it. Join me in improving our image one step at a time. I am committed to doing whatever is necessary to turn public opinion, but I can't do it alone. I need your help and I look forward to working with you to making it happen.



SECRETARY
Johnny B. Bradberry

DEPUTY SECRETARY
Blaise Carriere, P.E.

COMMUTER LINES STAFF
Deidre Adams
Lauren Lee
Lacey Holliday
Angela Funke
Tracy Horne

ON THE ROAD WITH BRADBERRY (Abbreviated Calendar)

April

- 14 BR, Governor's office; Perkins Road Project meeting
- 20 BR, State Capitol; Acadiana Gulf of Mexico Access Channel
- 21 BR; La. Good Roads Ass'n.
- 26 BR; meeting w/ John Horsley, AASHTO Exec Director

May

- 4 BR; meeting w/ Tony Sussmann, FHWA
- 5 BR; Governor's Mansion, Governor's cabinet meeting; LaRose; LA 1 public meeting
- 6 Grand Isle; LA 1 public meeting
- 11 BR; TIMED Exec meeting
- 12 BR, State Capitol; Homeland Security meeting
- 13-16 Utah; AASHTO Spring meeting
- 27 Times-Picayune interview

June

- 2-3 Washington, DC; TIFIA application
 - 7 BR, State Capitol; Fiber optics meeting
 - 8 BR, State Capitol; Transp. Comm. Presentation
 - 14 BR, State Capitol; House Transp. Meeting
 - 16 BR; LTA meeting
 - 17 BR, State Capitol; Senate Transp. briefing
 - 24 BR; Monroe Chamber of Commerce
 - 26 BR; LTEA Annual Meeting
-

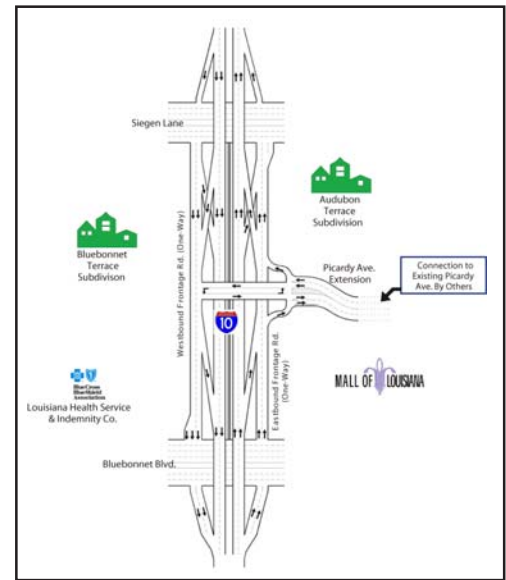
First Phase of I-10/Picardy Avenue Interchange Project Begins

Work began Monday, April 19, on the I-10/ Picardy Avenue Interchange project in Baton Rouge. The \$40 million project is aimed at reducing congestion on I-10 at Bluebonnet Boulevard and Siegen Lane. The project involves the creation of two one-way frontage roads running east and west along I-10 between Bluebonnet Boulevard and Siegen Lane, and the widening and reconstruction of I-10 between these two roads.

The project will be undertaken in six phases and should be completed by late summer of 2006. Periodic lane closures will occur, but will be limited to night time hours on Sundays through Thursdays. At all other times, two lanes of traffic will be maintained. No lane closures will be allowed on weekends or on holidays.

During this first phase of the project, the interstate shoulders are being widened and construction has begun on both the eastbound and westbound frontage roads. The second phase, scheduled to begin in August, will focus on work on the inside lanes of I-10 eastbound and westbound.

The contractor for the project is James Construction Group, LLC. In order to minimize the duration of the project and its impact on motorists, DOTD is providing an incentive for each day of early completion. The maximum, total incentive payment that may be earned is \$900,000. The project is being funded with federal, state and local monies. DOTD's Project Engineer for the project is Mike Vosburg. For more details on the project, visit us on the Web at www.dotd.louisiana.gov and choose the I-10/Picardy Avenue Interchange project from the Programs & Projects menu option. ♦



I-10/Picardy Avenue Interchange. Source: ABMB Engineers, Inc.

DOTD Discovers Possible Champion Tree



Cherrybark Oak is measured to determine its status as a Champion tree.

DOTD personnel recently discovered a Cherrybark Oak tree near Joor Road in Baton Rouge that may become the largest State Cherrybark Oak Champion.

In conjunction with an upcoming project to construct a new Comite River Bridge, Herb Piller, Landscape Architect, discovered the tree which was later assessed by a DEMCO forester as a contender for State Champion status. Only native or naturalized species are eligible to be designated as Champion trees by the Louisiana Forestry Association.

Only two Champion Cherrybark Oaks exist in Louisiana: one each in East and West Feliciana Parishes. The trees are judged on

a point system that includes measurements of the circumference, height and diameter. The two existing champions have scores of about 380 points while the tree on Joor Road is estimated at 410, which would make it the largest in the state. Before issuing the official certification, the State Agricultural Forester must wait for the tree to leaf out.

The two National Cherrybark Oak champions are located in Virginia, one measuring at 482 and the other at 479 points. To preserve the Joor Road tree, DOTD will utilize a tree protection zone during construction and build a retaining wall for protection after construction. ♦

DOTD Recognizes Work Zone Awareness Week

To mark the beginning of another busy season of highway construction in Louisiana, DOTD and other concerning agencies, urge drivers across Louisiana to remember safety as they travel through work zones. DOTD highlighted this message during National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 4-10, by hosting a press conference at its Baton Rouge headquarters on April 7. Speakers at the press conference included Secretary Bradberry; FHWA Division Administrator William A. "Tony" Sussmann; DOTD Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning and Programming, Ken Perret; Louisiana Association of General Contractors, Executive Director of Occupational Division, Ken Naquin; and Major Russell Robinson of the Office of State Police.



Pictured left to right are Ken Perret, Ken Naquin, Tony Sussmann, Secretary Bradberry, and Major Robinson.

Two cone memorials were erected by DOTD in memory of the 1,181 motorists and highway workers who were killed in work zones nationwide during 2002. One of these cone memorials was placed in front of DOTD Headquarters and the other was placed in the median of West End Boulevard in New Orleans, near the I-610/I-10 interchange. At the ceremony in Baton Rouge, Secretary Bradberry led the group in a moment of silence to remember those who lost their lives in work zones.

During 2002, 14 people were killed and 688 injured in work zone related crashes in Louisiana. This was a 40 percent decrease in work zone fatalities in Louisiana from 2001, which may be attributed to DOTD's new work zone traffic control standards and specifications and a new training program for highway workers in work zones. Movement through work zones has also been improved by DOTD

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Environmental Policy

The following policy was approved and adopted on May 12, 2000. Although titled an environmental policy, it pertains to all aspects of DOTD's workings and should be reviewed by all.

It is the mission of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to ensure that our customers – those who live, work, and travel in Louisiana – have a safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation system.

It is our goal to provide an environmentally sound transportation network and protect, preserve, and enhance Louisiana's cultural and natural resources, many of which are unique to our State.

We will ensure that transportation and water resource projects are compatible with environmental concerns and considerations, and done in the spirit of cooperation with our public and private partners through information sharing and mutual involvement. We are committed to the meaningful involvement and fair treatment of all people.

It is our policy to evaluate environmental consequences, both to the natural and to the human environment (including impacts to the community), and promote compatible solutions in serving the transportation needs of Louisiana.

We are committed to balanced decisions by providing a holistic evaluation of departmental actions to provide our customers with a quality transportation system that is safe, cost-effective, environmentally sound and one of the best in the nation. ♦

DOTD Hosts Ribbon Cutting for New Orleans I-10 Pump Station

DOTD hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, June 1, for the new I-10 Pump Station in New Orleans. DOTD Assistant Secretary of Operations Gordon Nelson served as Master of Ceremonies for the event, which was scheduled to coincide with the first day of Hurricane Season. The ceremony took place at Praise Church, located on Academy Drive, directly across from the Pump Station.

The new pump is capable of pumping up to 390,000 gallons per minute and is designed to drain flood water from the lowest spot on the I-10 evacuation route, at the Southern Railroad Underpass, an area that dips 14 feet below sea level.

The project consisted of construction of the new 60 foot-tall pump station, the widening of I-10 from the Southern Railroad Underpass to Tulane Avenue, the installation of new drainage at the Underpass and Metairie Road, and the addition of soundwalls. The roadway work was completed in April of 2004.

In addition to Nelson, remarks were given by Mayor C. Ray Nagin, City of New Orleans; Chief Terry Tullier, Director of the New Orleans Office of Emergency Preparedness; Councilman John A. Batt, Jr.; and Marcia St. Martin, Interim Executive Director of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board. Pastor Garland Bilbo, of Praise Church, provided the Invocation and the Benediction.

James Construction Group, of Kenner, was the contractor for the project. The DOTD Project Engineer was Larry Langenstein. ♦



State and local officials gathered in front of the pump station to cut the ceremonial ribbon. On hand were DOTD's Gordon Nelson (4th from right) and Tom Payment (2nd from right).

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held for I-49 Greenbelt Project



State and local officials mark the completion of the Alexandria enhancement project.

DOTD, in conjunction with the city of Alexandria, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, May 20, at the corner of Murray and Martin Luther King Drive, under the I-49 overpass to celebrate the completion of the I-49 Greenbelt Project. DOTD Deputy Secretary, Blaise Carriere, joined other area officials for the event, which marked the conclusion of the more than \$2.6 million project, funded by DOTD, FHWA, and the City of Alexandria.

Ned Randolph, Mayor of Alexandria, served as the master of ceremonies for the event.

Among other things, completion of this enhancement project provides a loop extension to an existing bike/walking trail system in the Riverfront Park along the Red River and provides connections to neighborhoods located outside of the downtown area.

Coushatta Empire, Inc., of Oakdale was the contractor for the project which included erosion control and drainage improvements, almost two miles of bike/walking paths, 145 overhead pole-mounted lights along the trail, and extensive landscaping of downtown Alexandria with hundreds of trees and thousands of shrubs and plants. The DOTD Project Engineer was Wayne Vollman.

In addition to DOTD's Carriere, remarks were given by FHWA Assistant Division Administrator Joe Bloise, Mayor Randolph, and Councilman Louis Marshall. ♦

NEWS BRIEFS

➤ Officials from DOTD, the State of Louisiana and the City of Denham Springs convened at DOTD Headquarters on April 29 to sign the Range Avenue Corridor Agreement. The amended agreement formed a partnership between DOTD and the City of Denham Springs to facilitate the purchase of the project right-of-way by Denham Springs.

On hand for the signing were Secretary Bradberry; Mayor Jimmy Durbin, City of Denham Springs; Don Hooper, City Engineer's Office ; State Representative Dale Erdey; Cathy Wells, of Senator Clo Fontenot's office; and Attorney J. Harris.

➤ During the entire month of April, DOTD Headquarters participated in the Louisiana Day Food Drive, hosted by the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. As a result of this drive, the organization was able to procure more than 2,800 pounds of nonperishable food, 77 pounds of which were donated by DOTD.

➤ Julie Taylor, an employee in the Hydraulics Unit of Road Design, was recently awarded "Red Cross Volunteer of the Month" by the Louisiana Capital Area Chapter. Julie donates half a day every week to the American Red Cross.

➤ DOTD's Carla Parent and Dana Watlington attended a session of the House of Representatives on Monday, June 7,

for the reading of a resolution commending DOTD's Procurement Section for receiving the Outstanding Agency Accreditation Award from the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing.

➤ DOTD welcomes new Undersecretary Michael Bridges, who was appointed by Governor Blanco on April 14.

Bridges, a Houma native, is a graduate of Georgia Tech University, a licensed engineer in both Louisiana and Texas, and a Certified Facility Manager. Prior to his appointment, he served as Executive Director and Resident District Manager for ARAMARK Facility at Baylor University in Texas. His 28 years of experience in management and engineering also included serving as Director of the Physical Plant at ULL; Design Engineer for Carl Heck Engineer, Inc., in Thibodaux; and Design Engineer for Edward E. Evans and Associates in Baton Rouge.

➤ Denny Silvio, DOTD's Weight Enforcement and Permits Administrator, has been appointed chairman of AASHTO's National Oversize/Overweight Permit Task Force. The group addresses permitting issues from a national perspective and seeks to enhance permit operations, uniformity, best practices, etc., throughout the country. LA DOTD will also be hosting the biannual meeting of the SASHTO Multi-State Permit group in New Orleans in September.

Atchafalaya Welcome Center *(continued from page 1)*

is a four-minute story certain to captivate the audience with its thrilling sound effects and canvas of unique photography of the basin.

"As we (Louisiana) are so well-known everywhere for our food and music, so will we be remembered for this educational center," said DNR Secretary Scott Angelle. Serving as master of ceremonies for the event, Angelle said it was the work of all the agencies and local people that made this day possible.

Speakers at the grand opening included Governor Blanco, CRT Assistant Secretary Darienne Wilson, DOTD Legislative Liaison John C. "Juba" Diez, FHWA Division Administrator William "Tony" Sussmann, State Senator Craig Romero, State Representative Sydnie Mae Durand, and Atchafalaya Basin Program Director Sandra Thompson.

The Atchafalaya Welcome Center was funded by DOTD's Transportation Enhancement Program and DNR's Atchafalaya Basin Program at a cost of approximately \$5.5 million. Under the umbrella of the state Lieutenant Governor's Office, CRT will staff, operate, and maintain the facility while DOTD will maintain the surrounding grounds. The DOTD Project Engineer was David Landry. ♦



Louisiana-themed displays adorn the interior of the facility.

DOTD Supports Adopt-a-Troop Program

On April 8, DOTD's Contract Services Section presented a check for \$2,200 to members of the 528th Engineering Battalion as part of the Adopt-A-Troop Program. The money was raised by a committee consisting of Joyce Rodrigue, Kitty David, Dorothy LeDoux, Karen Woodard, and Terry Cormier.



Representatives of the 528th Engineering Battalion accept their Adopt-a-Troop check.

Rodrigue, who spearheaded the effort, said, "The committee would like to thank the DOTD community for its support in this effort, and we would like to challenge anyone interested to match or exceed what we have done."

The group was able to raise money through numerous fundraisers including an ice cream sale and jambalaya dinners.

Major Mark Howard and members from each of the troop's companies were present to receive the contribution.

The funds will go directly towards the support of the troops and their families. The committee has adopted the 528th Battalion for at least one year, and will continue to show support by sending cards, letters and emails. ♦

State Employee Recognition Day



Secretary Bradberry joins in the celebration.



Cake and beverages were served throughout DOTD.

On Wednesday, May 5, in honor of State Employee Recognition Day, DOTD took the time to recognize employees for their hard work and achievements. DOTD managers and supervisors at Headquarters and at the Airport showed their appreciation by serving cake and soft drinks to employees.

This year's event was held in conjunction with the 20th Annual Public Service Recognition Week, May 3-9, a time to recognize public servants around the nation for their dedication and outstanding service.

Throughout the nation and around the world, public employees use Public Service Recognition Week to educate citizens about the many ways in which government serves the people and how government services make life better for all of us. ♦

Technology Transfer

The following became certified inspectors between January 1, 2004 and June 1, 2004:

Asphaltic Concrete Plant Inspection

James Brown	District 02
Jeffrey A. Willett	District 02
John P. Johnston, Jr.	District 05

Embankment and Base Course Inspection

Richard J. Puglise	District 02
Andrew P. Wilson, Jr.	District 02
Richard Neal Guillot, II	District 04
Christopher A. Oberlander	District 04
Michael C. Rasbury	District 04
Timothy F. Coleman	District 07
Steven R. Labouve	District 07
Joshua C. Davis	District 58
Michael Todd Walters	District 58
Lance A. Younger	District 62

Portland Cement Concrete Paving Inspection

Alton J. Landry	District 02
Landi R. Zimmerman	District 03
Donald E. Grace	District 62

Asphaltic Concrete Paving Inspection

Scott J. Courville	District 02
Wiley C. Cole, II	District 04
John R. Fontenot	District 04
Joseph S. Foy	District 58
Jonathan K. Catlett	District 61
Mark S. Lee, Jr.	District 62



John Oglesby serves cake to DOTD staff on State Employee Recognition Day.

NEW HIRES

DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Vanessa C. Ronquille; Justin M. Guilbeau; Chrys Staiger; Brandon P. Green; Travis L. Neville; Craig Curtis Kennedy; Edward A. Murray; Ronald E. Richard; Michael Gordon; Oliver P. Bourgeois, Jr.; Lacey Yesso McCaskill; Setrina Lynette Douglass; Carolyn Jean Johnson; Nora Tippet Taylor; William A. Welsh; Troy A. Callais; Melinna Ann Pierre; Newell Christopher Anderson.

DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Huey J. Trahan; Michael J. Hebert; Brandon Lee Michael Richard; Colby Dale Abshire; R. Jude Vincent; Toby J. Leblanc; Larry James Batiste; Minace N. Gaspard; Steven James Cormier; Samantha Michelle Young; Brian C. Savoy; Kevin M. Bernard; Steven P. Brown; James B. Bogard; Joshua K. Hebert; Kenneth A. Lukaszewski; Mary Perrodin; Derek J. Murphy; Thomas Patrick Guillory; Marlin Conrad McDaniel; Louis M. Leger; Ricky James Frederick; Norris C. Huval; Brandon J. Pontiff; Anthony J. Gaudet; Anthony S. Dupre; Tiffany Travis Lacombe.

DISTRICT 04 – SHREVEPORT

Frank B. Miles; Matthew Harold Manzanara; Athen C. Ardison; James E. Hutchinson; Richard Allen Mathews; Sammy Charles Douse; Jason W. Winget; Justin L. Joyner; Chadwick Lee Huff; Kenneth D. Tubbs; Connie L. Ford, Jr.; Jerry J. Welton; Jessie R. Hughs; Eric Monroe; Dennis Ray Rushing.

DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Terry W. Davis; Lori M. Sharp; Tommy L. Dunning; John S. Bearden; Anthony Latrone Buie; Lori Ann Buckley; Reginald V. Ausberry; Otis Edmond Peterson, Jr.; Ryan C. McMillan; Eric James Broadway; Jean B. Kennedy.

DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

David W. Williams; Paris L. Judge; Richard Dale Dodd, Jr.; Benjamin Joseph Desjardine; Cornelius Davis; Jason A. Bourgeois; Robert Keith Faulk.

DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

James C. Lucas; Troy Cornelis Hines; Craig Joseph Gauthier; Seth R. Howell; Bryan M. Juneau; Shane M. Lajaunie; John Michael Elias; Kerry J. Lemoine; Patrick L. Anderson; Roy D. Vallery; James V. Fletcher; Robert

W. Brown, Jr.; Patrick K. Fontenot; Justin C. Bissell; Stephen V. Carpenter; Gordon Troy Gauthier; Michael J. Lowe; James Karl Manuel; Don C. Oglesby, Jr.; Clint L. Harris; David W. Antee, Jr.; Dale Joseph Scallan; Jacob P. Edwards; Jerry R. Singletary; Jimmy L. Bradford; Tommy T. Tobin, III; Jeremy Shawn Lemoine; Harold P. Mayeux; Thomas K. Johnson; Richard Klingensmith; Joyce Ann Cooper.

DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Elizabeth C. Bogan; Shirley Ray Guidry; Nathan D. Wascom; Sidney Persilver; Penny N. Milligan.

DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Lawrence William McGuff; Jason J. Pigno; Christopher A. Spears; Thomas Eric Jenkins; Jeremy Mark Rodriguez; James R. Corkern.

HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Debra A. Lang; Dean A. Vicknair; Robbie Annette Hutchinson; Ann Castellana Holley; Daria Mayeuz West; Doris Marie Nguyen; Angelle Daleigh Jackson; Tiffani Derbigny Hawkins; Faye A. Ricard; Michael Pugh; Douglas E. Faust; Isaac Thornton, Jr.; Tondranette Ross Brown; Byron James Hadley, Jr.; Nikita C. Jones; Jason Lacour Morgan; Sharon V. Fabre; Marcella Gunther Cummins; David Murray Weber; Daniel E. Wilkinson; Saul E. Labbe; Danna Renee Bueche; John P. Blake; Christopher R. Alonso; Seth J. Woods; Dale L. Husser, Jr.; Patsy A. Chaney; Brandilyn N. Leblanc; David Lee Dantin; Luther Daniel Dunning; Donald Drothmorel Dean J. Dunford; C. R. Caldwell; E. Doyle Guy, Jr.; Carol Lynette White; Roderick L. Bingham; Gerard M. Feraci; Bertie A. Sessions; Michael K. Arendt; Sabrina A. Turner; Hannelore Blanchard; Arianne C. Cousin; Candace C. Murdock; Irene Kelley; Peter Johnson, Jr.; Brent J. Duplechin; Uneike L. McGrew; Shanco C. Lestrick; Arlin W. Levy; Louis P. Stewart, Jr.; Cheryl D. Ebarb; Bradford Charles Hanson; Sara Wilson Gueho; Joseph Dean Goodell; Lawrence Kirk Hofstad.

TRAFFIC SERVICES

James W. Ivey; Singer C. Woods, Jr.; Ryan Roy Vosberg; Christopher Whitt Smock; Dexter William Leblanc.

PROMOTIONS

DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Kevin J. Adams; Ke'Shawn D. Black; Nelson

Capote; Kirby P. Courteaux, Jr.; Robert C. Flynn; Floyd A. Mahler; and John R. Monzon.

DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Shirley M. Amos; Anthony K. Briley; David N. Faulk; Carmen P. Granger; Timothy K. Guidry; David N. Landry; and Sharon L. Soileau.

DISTRICT 04 – SHREVEPORT

Brian Edward Chelette; Gary Carl May; Tommie L. Norton; Jack D. Price; Jeffery B. Townsend; Clayton L. Warren; and Jesse E. Willis.

DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Allen L. Henderson; Danny J. Lenard; Norma Lynne Plummer; Banner D. Wright, Jr.

DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Robert E. Herron; Angelo John Picarazzi; and Jesse S. Theriot.

DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Douglas Glenn; Keith Paul Juneau; Huey J. Maloy, Jr.; Darin W. Merrell; Roger L. Moore; Kevin R. Nicholson; Mark Anthony Weatherford; John H. Whitehead, Jr.; and Robert Todd Willie.

DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Patrick M. Batieste; Levi Brown, Jr.; Calvin J. Dunn; Houston J. Hawkins; Clifton W. Morris; Michael Steven Procell; and Joey M. Tureau.

DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Randy A. Branch; Richard A. Garner; William J. Murray, IV; and Earl David Williams.

HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Anthony Derrick Condalary; Judy Ann Versaw; Frank L. Ward, Jr.; Paul F. Brady; Willie C. Jackson; Ian A. Miller; Wilson Battley, III; Lori Hill Easterling; Shakira L. Story; Jody Harvey Ballard; Rita Murphy Davis; Gary Nolan Leblanc; Stanley L. Crain; Chadwyck Perry Thomas; Joe Kelvin Stone; Terri Hunter Campo; Kevin Frank Jolin; David M. Brewer; Theresa Faye Dunaway; Michael D. Brock; Joe A. Brooks; and Kari Suzanne Anthony.

TRAFFIC SERVICES

John D. Horne; Coley Pritchett Johnson; May Pooler Mallard; and Glenn P. McFall.

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QUARTERLY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

(QUARTER ENDING 3/31/04)

HEADQUARTERS

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Allison Landry

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Lloyd E. "Buddy" Porta, Jr.

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Sharon J. Balfour, Dean Goodell, Kevin Lawson, Leo Boles, Tommie Russo, Kay Henderson, David Felder and Susan Firth.

DISTRICT 02

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Emma Suggs

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Gary Gisclair

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

JoAnn Bowers; Michael Buras; Vickie Delacruz; John Donnelly; Renieka Henry; Robert Hertle; James Lagarosse; Caryl Lee; Gene Petkovich; Chanell Riley; Bruce Simoneaux; William Stewart, Jr.; William Stewart, Sr.; and Betty VanMeter.

DISTRICT 03

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Ferdinand Lavergne

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Christine Bourgeois; Brandon Bundick; Nicholas Chachere; Lucas Cormier; Lawrence Fontenot, Jr.; Jarrod Francois; David Landry; Michael Leckelt; Edward Scott Newsome; C.R. "Rick" Villejoin; and Robert West.

DISTRICT 04

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Steve Barron

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Brian Chelette

DISTRICT 05

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Patricia Wilhite

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Bobby Wayne Epinnette

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Denis E. Bartlett; Wesley Allen Crump; James T. Duke; David Lynn Thomas, Sr.; and Garnet Lavell Wagner.

DISTRICT 07

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

James Donald Judson

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Chris Hidalgo

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Loretta Antoine; Carleton Brouhard, Jr.; Michael Brown; Phillip Cormier; Robin Eldridge, Jr.; Sonya Fontenot; Stephanie Granger; Jonas Hatfield; Tony Hylton; Kim Martin; Shawanda Sowell; and Donna Young.

DISTRICT 08

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

William C. Bridges

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Melvin L. Harrison

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Ronnie Herrington, Tommy Holder, G.A. Brossette, Philip L. Shackleford, Ernest E. Hilton, Ronald Moore, James South, Regina Smith, Michael Rivers, Jimmie Strickland, John Trull, Randy Jeter, Joseph Lyons, Jarohn Perkins, Wallace Martin, Jason Stokes, James Walker, Beverly Sheppard, Donnie Herrington, Roger S. Wilson, George Weatherford, Thomas Paul, and James Jowers.

DISTRICT 58

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Karen Calhoun

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Walter Purvis

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Ronnie Busby and Scott Peters.

DISTRICT 61

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Mary Ruvalcaba

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Jim Ott

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Eileen Lemoine and Charlotte Dillon.

CCCD

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Theron M. Armstrong

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Debbie Stoufflet

PERSONNEL UPDATES *(continued from page 8)*

RETIREMENTS

DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Daniel T. Bealer, Jr.; Kenvard J. Beough; Gerald J. Breaux; Wayne A. Champagne, II; Wayne R. Lemoine; Frank Palmer, Sr.; Allen J. Pontiff, Jr.; Walter R. Romain; and John A. Wenner, Jr.

DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Lawrence C. Harry; Michael A. Hollier; Herman P. Legrange; Ethel R. Melancon; Charles W. Mencina; Rivers J. Picard; Charles N. Tweedel; and Melvin D. Villery.

DISTRICT 04 – SHREVEPORT

Richard G. Pickett; Willie Lee Sudds;

and Michael K. White.

DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Jerry Don Aulds

DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Jimmie Lee Martin

DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

James B. Chandler; Floyd L. Chelette; Cecil Dwayne Davis; Jesse E. Dyson; Thomas W. Edmonson; Charles R. Fletcher; William Partin, Jr.; and Grover W. Sumney.

DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

Catherine M. Lucas

DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Harry Atkinson; Rita N. Crocker; T. E. Quatrevingt; and Joseph M. Stein.

DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Frank J. Ciolino and Wallace Smith.

HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER

Karen L'Anglois Bergeron; Donald E. Carey; Beverly Anne Hansen; M. Loring Bacot Mathews; Tommy L. Hickman; F.L. McMurray; Larry Hugh Faulk; Eugene A. Pellegrin; Clyde Philip Martin, Jr.; and Robert H. Anderson.

HR HOT TOPICS

HR Awards

DOTD's HR Section recently received three awards from the Louisiana Chapter of the International Personnel Management Association (IPMA) for high achievement in the following HR programs for calendar year 2003:

- Orientation Program for New Appointing Authorities (Communications/Employee Relations Category) - A half-day program to formally introduce DOTD managers to HR staff and programs.
- Interviewing Assistance and On-Site Evaluation Program (Staffing Category) - An on-site service by which supervisors/managers are evaluated on their interviewing skills and are provided with feedback.
- Human Resources Field Audit Program (Other - relating to more than one category) - A review of 11 HR field offices for the evaluation of HR programs and to ensure compliance with CS rules and critical agency policies/practices.

The IPMA Chapter Achievement Awards are designed to encourage innovation and high standards in human resources management.

Revised PPM's

PPM #17 (Educational Leave/Tuition Reimbursement Policy) was recently revised to allow Educational Leave for attendance at private, in addition to public, universities, and for attendance at out-of-state universities on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, the policy now allows for consideration of tuition reimbursement for Internet coursework at an accredited university.

Workshops

HR's Employee Relations unit conducted retirement and FMLA workshops throughout the state during June. On July 8, LASERS will provide a PREP TO GO SEMINAR at DOTD Headquarters, 3rd floor classroom. This workshop is geared for employees that are within five years of retirement. If you would like to attend this seminar, please contact HR at (225) 379-1229.

Drake Named Public Service Hero

Janice Drake, DOTD Human Resources Manager, was recently named "Public Service Hero" by the Louisiana Department of State Civil Service for her valuable contributions in the workplace and the Baton Rouge community. Secretary Bradberry presented Drake with the award, an honor bestowed upon six Louisiana public servants throughout the state in conjunction with Employee Recognition Day.

Drake, DOTD's Recruiting Coordinator, is in her 26th year of classified state service. She is an active volunteer with the Audubon Girl Scouts Council and is currently the Assistant Webelos Den Leader with the Cub Scouts at Belfair Baptist Church, a commitment that began seven years ago as she was searching for a Cub Scout troop for her nephew. Drake has also been involved for many years with the St. Mary Baptist Church Drama Club, writing, directing and acting in plays. ♦



Janice Drake receives a plaque in recognition of her community service.

Letters We Like

Dear LA DOTD:

I just wanted to take the opportunity to commend the department and the construction company for completing the repairs and expansion to the Pontchartrain expressway. They were sorely needed. From time to time I send a message about things that could be changed or improved, hazards I observe, etc., but I didn't want the opportunity to go by without commending everyone who had a hand in getting this job completed.

Mark Herman

Dear Wayne Marchand (District 08) and LA DOTD:

I am writing this letter to thank you and everyone involved for the resurfacing of LA 465, between LA 28 and LA 489, and to commend all for their efficiency and professionalism. In recent years, this portion of LA 465 had fallen into poor condition. I, as well as my neighbors, am grateful for your efforts. Thanks again.

W.G. Gordy
Leesville, Louisiana



Dear LA DOTD Motorist Assistance Patrol:

We had been unaware of the Motorist Assistance Patrol program, so when Mr. Grimer showed up in the MAP van less than five minutes after we pulled over (due to a tire blow-out), he was like a superhero coming to the rescue with all the right equipment and with such a courteous manner. Thank you!

Joe & Teri Diaz
Stopped on I-10 in New Orleans

Work Zone Awareness Week *(continued from page 4)*

doing more work during off-peak hours.

"The major causes of collisions in highway work zones are speeding and following too closely. Don't be a tailgator," said Perret. "The extensive construction in Louisiana, including some 385 projects underway at this time, makes public awareness of work zone safety essential," he continued. All drivers need to stay alert and pay close attention to the orange signs and work zone devices, such as cones, barrels and barricades.

"Building safer roads calls for patience, good judgment, courtesy and understanding on the part of all motorists and construction workers," according to Perret. ♦



HQ workzone memorial.

New Look! You may have noticed that Commuter Lines has a new style this quarter. Help us keep Commuter Lines looking good by sending any news or article ideas to the DOTD Public Affairs Office at (225) 379-1232 or fax to (225) 379-1863. All stories will be considered!

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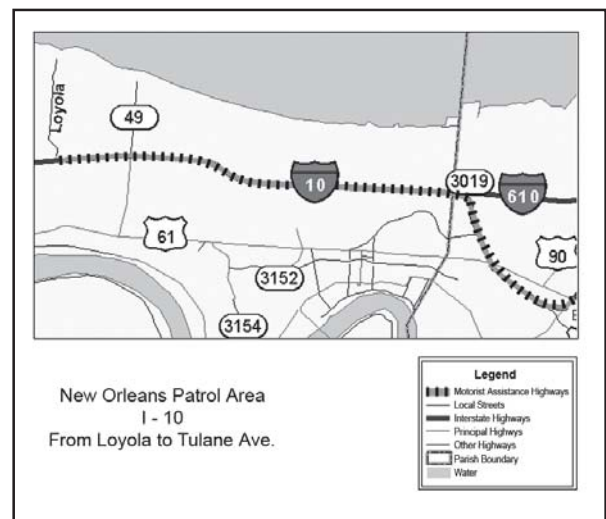
DOTD Announces New Orleans MAP Route

A new contract was awarded to Jack B. Harper Contractor of Mandeville to provide Motorist Assistance Patrol (MAP) services on I-10 from Loyola Drive in Kenner to the Superdome in New Orleans.

The new patrol service began on May 16th and provides free assistance to stranded interstate motorists from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. The program aims to reduce traffic congestion caused by vehicle breakdowns. By assisting disabled vehicles, MAP will keep traffic delays to a minimum.

As with our other Motorist Assistance Patrols, these MAP vehicles constantly patrol the route and when a breakdown occurs, provide assistance in a quick and efficient manner. The MAP staff moves disabled vehicles out of the travel lanes, and then provides free assistance in the form of changing a flat tire, jump starting the car, filling the radiator with water, providing one gallon of fuel, and/or providing the use of a cellular phone if additional assistance is needed.

MAP patrols are also located in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Lake Charles. ♦



The MAP patrol route in New Orleans is noted in the above illustration.